

## **REMARKS**

Claim 14 has been amended. Claims 12-22 are pending and under consideration. Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112**

In the Office Action, at page 2, claim 14 was rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite. Claim 14 has been amended in response to this rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103**

On pages 2-11 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 12 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0202303, issued to Costa-Requena (hereinafter referred to as "Costa-Requena") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0287997, issued to Fournier (hereinafter referred to as "Fournier").

The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of these claims.

It is respectfully submitted that Fournier fails to qualify as prior art against the claims of the present application for use the purpose of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Fournier has a filing date of June 29, 2004. However, the present application claims priority to German Application No. 10352378.2, which was filed on November 10, 2003 (see paragraph [0001] of the specification), which is prior to the June 29, 2004 filing date of Fournier. As such, Fournier fails to qualify as prior art against the claims of the present application for use the purpose of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). For the Examiner's convenience, a certified translation of German Application No. 10352378.2 is submitted herewith.

Claims 13-21 depend from claim 12 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features not disclosed in the cited prior art. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-21 also patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

### **Summary**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

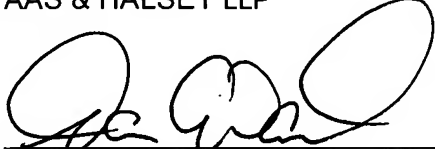
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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